161 population is only 13.2 persons per square kilometer, or 30.7 per square mile. Of all the countries in Europe, only Norway and Iceland are more sparsely populated, and nature, as a whole, in Finland still dominates the achievements of man. The population, of course, is not distributed evenly over the country. It has its greatest density in the southern and southwestern coastal areas, while the northern and eastern parts still present an unbroken chain of primeval forests.

• 166 361 The earliest settlements were established on the coast and at the mouths of rivers, along which the population advanced to the center of the country. There the great inland waterways provided a helpful means of communication, and beginning from the early Middle Ages a slow

166 361 migration towards the north and the northeast has continued, with major settlements arising on the lake shores and river banks.

The chief administrative districts of Finland are:

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	Density of population per. sq. km. (31 December 1950)	Area (sq. km.)
Uusimaa	67.3	12,232
Häme	30.2	21,645
Kymi	29.0	10,756
Turku and Pori	28.7	23,014
Vaasa	15.6	41,468
Mikkeli	13.8	23,012
Kuopio	13.1	42,984
Oulu	6.4	61,192
Lappland	1.8	99,305

ooo During the last few decades Finland has been

369 Since 1880 there has been a steady stream of
166 rural population moving to the cities. To date the rural districts have lost about a million people, 600,000 of whom have moved to urban communities and 400,000 emigrated abroad. The traditional northward migration has now been radically diverted and is being directed towards the south and southwest. The population today is centered in the southern areas, so that the districts of Uusimaa, Häme, and Turku and Pori received between 1921-51 altogether 357,375 new inhabitants. The following diagram shows the fluctuations of this internal migration between urban and rural areas in the period 1947 to 1951:

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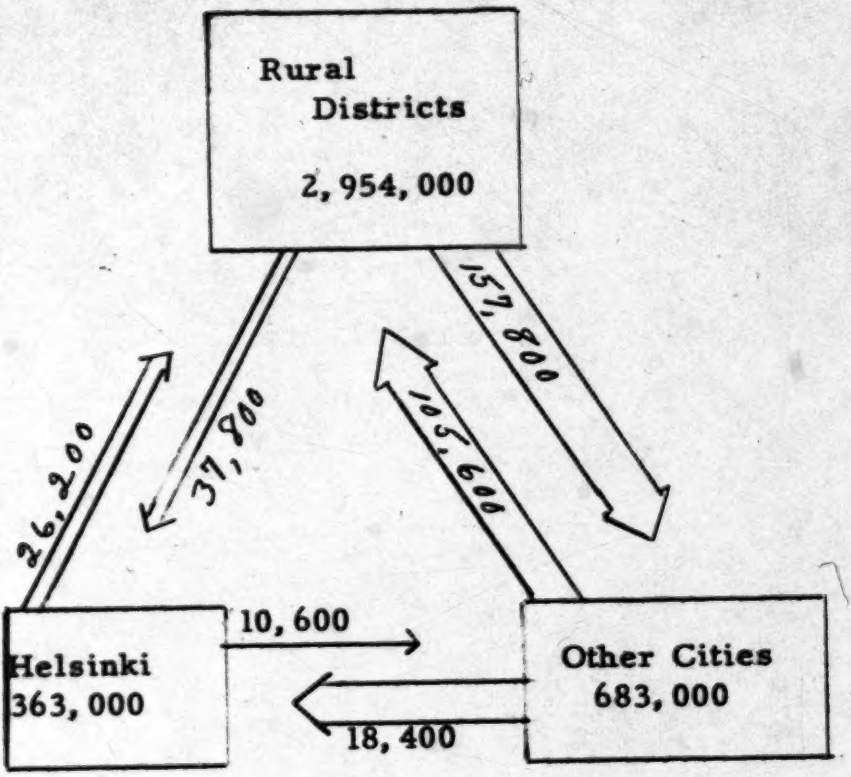

This internal migration to urban centers in a sparsely populated country no doubt indicates that in certain localities trades have not been sufficiently developed and living standards are often considerably lower than in the cities so that the inducements of urban living have been hard to resist. Several governmental

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369 committees have been established to examine
166
this problem, but so far little has been achieved.

Another important factor in this movement has been the resettlement of the Karelian

[128] people. In 1940 and again in 1944 Finland lost one-eighth of its territory to the Soviet Union, part of it some of the most fertile in the country, with farms which had been cultivated for centuries by the same families. The long-time occupants of this area chose voluntarily to abandon their homes rather than to live outside their native country. Thus, in 1944, 420,286 Finns--11.2 per cent of the entire population--was homeless. By 1949 this displaced population had been permanently resettled, the majority (66 per cent) in southwestern and southern Finland. Though 82.8 per cent of the

369 evacuees were of rural origin, 23.6 per cent
•166 of the total group chose to live in cities and towns, thus further raising the percentage of the urban population.

166 In the process of resettlement, serious at-
423 tempts were made to keep together in the same or nearby localities those people who had lived together in the old homeland. The ceded territories represented 13 per cent of the national income and farms in the remaining Finland were split up to accommodate the new settlers, financial reparation being paid according to the estimated individual losses. As a result the landed property of the Church was diminished by one-third, that of the State 21.6 per cent, of the communities 19.6 per cent, of industrial concerns 16.1 per cent, and of

166 individuals 4.4 per cent. Some of the Karelians
423 have preferred to pioneer new farms in uncultivated areas with the support of the State. By now the displaced population has more or less adjusted itself to the new surroundings.

163 During the last decade the population of
165 Finland has been steadily increasing, due to higher birth rates and a lower rate of mortality, especially infant mortality. The birth rate in 1949 was 25.7 per thousand, the death rate 11.3. The increase of population was, in 1952, 13.5 per thousand, while in 1935 it was only 6.9 per thousand. The life expectance in 1949 was 54.62 years for men, 61.14 years for women. It has been estimated that Finland easily can support a population twice the size of the
167 present one. In spite of this, emigration abroad has at times been considerable. Even in the